



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Jim Cross

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters

1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office

444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office

500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

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Oct. 15, 2004

KANSAS CITY MAN CHARGED WITH THREATENING WITNESSES IN FEDERAL CASE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that Kurtis Wayne Schreiner, 49, Kansas City, Mo., was charged on Oct. 12, 2004 with three counts of threatening witnesses in a federal criminal case.

Schreiner was arrested Oct. 13, 2004 by the United States Marshals Service. He made his initial appearance Oct. 14 in U.S. District Court in Topeka, Kan., and was released on bond.

A complaint and affidavit filed with the court allege that Schreiner is the brother-in-law of Kevin McLaughlin. McLaughlin is currently in custody and awaiting sentencing on a 1992 federal drug charge. McLaughlin failed to appear for his sentencing in 1994 and was not apprehended until 2004.

The complaint and affidavit against Schreiner allege that on Sept. 21, 2004, he confronted Charles McGee at McGee's residence in rural Marshall County, Kan. According to the complaint and affidavit, Schreiner demanded that McGee write out a statement claiming a clandestine drug laboratory that was cited in the 1992 charges against McLaughlin belonged to McGee and had nothing to do with McLaughlin. Schreiner allegedly said that if McGee failed to write the statement he would "die a slow and painful death." McGee was a co-defendant in the drug case against McLaughlin.

The complaint and affidavit also charge that on Sept. 21, 2004, Schreiner confronted Doug Rogers at his home in rural Marshall County, Kan., and told Rogers he wanted an affidavit from Rogers stating that Kevin McLaughlin had nothing do with the drug laboratory. Schreiner allegedly told Rogers that if he failed to do so, "McLaughlin would not go down alone." Rogers was a witness in the 1992 case against McLaughlin.

(more)

The complaint and affidavit also allege that on Oct. 8, 2004, Schreiner contacted McGee again and told McGee he had obtained statements from Rodgers and another man saying McLaughlin had nothing to do with the clandestine laboratory.

If convicted, Schreiner faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case was investigated by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.